

REMARKS

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow.

Status of Claims:

No claims are currently being canceled.

Claims 1, 2, 4, 6, 11-13, 16, 18 and 19 are currently being amended.

Claims 20-22 are currently being added.

This amendment adds and amends deletes claims in this application. A detailed listing of all claims that are, or were, in the application, irrespective of whether the claims remain under examination in the application, is presented, with an appropriate defined status identifier.

After amending the claims as set forth above, claims 1-22 are now pending in this application.

Indication of Allowable Subject Matter:

Applicants appreciate the indication of allowable subject matter made in the Office Action with respect to claims 1-19.

Amendment to Specification:

The specification has been amended to correct a minor typographical error found in the specification. No new matter has been added.

35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd Paragraph Rejection of Claims:

In the Office Action, claims 1-19 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd paragraph, as being indefinite, due to the use of the word “possibility” and the use of the phrase “relatively higher.” In reply, the presently pending claims have been amended to change “possibility” to “an increased tendency”, and to change “relatively higher” to “higher.” Support for the use of “increased tendency” may be found, for example, on pages 20-21 of the specification.

Accordingly, the presently pending claims are believed to fully comply with 35 U.S.C. Section 112, 2nd paragraph.

New Claims:

New claims 20-22 have been added, whereby these claims are also believed to be in condition for allowance.

Conclusion:

Since all of the issues raised in the Office Action have been addressed in this Amendment and Reply, Applicants believe that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and an early indication of allowance is respectfully requested.

The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicants hereby petition for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorize payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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